

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jeffrey R. Filipek on 6/18/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claims 19, 35 and 36

"common key holding means for holding a most recent common key alone during the update completed status, and holding both the old common key and the new common key during the distribution completed status and the in-transit status;"

has been changed to

--common key holding means comprising a memory for holding a most recent common key alone during the update completed status, and holding both the old common key and the new common key during the distribution completed status and the in-transit status;--

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 19-36 are allowed. The present invention provides a communication system, a general communication apparatus, and a common key control apparatus each capable of

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preventing the generation of a period, during which not all the general communication apparatuses are enabled to make mutual communications using encrypted data, when the common key is updated to a new common key while suppressing the memory consumption of the general communication apparatus. Each independent claim identifies the unique features of “transmission data is encrypted using the most recent common key during the update completed status, encrypting transmission data using the old common key during the distribution completed status, and encrypting the transmission data using the new common key during the in-transit status”. The prior arts of record fail to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dieu Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3873.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Taghi T. Arani can be reached on 571-272-3787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

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information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Minh Dieu Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2438